



The

# BRITISH LUTHERAN

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INFORMATION, ARTICLES, ANNOUNCEMENTS

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EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF ENGLAND

## Bernard of Clairvaux

"If ever there was a pious monk", Martin Luther said, "it was St. Bernard". The third son of a wealthy and influential family of Dijon in France, he was born, in 1091, into a corrupt and vicious period of history. The lives of even the clergy were filled with greed and immorality; the simple Gospel was overlaid and buried in a mass of superstition and false doctrine.

Bernard's own saintliness and Scripture-bound eloquence made him the most influential Christian of his day. Though he shared in the errors of his time, giving enthusiastic support to papal supremacy, monasticism and to the cult of Mary, his writings indicate a remarkably intimate knowledge and love of the Bible and simple reliance upon the mercy of Christ. "When Bernard is speaking of Christ, it is a pleasure indeed to listen to him," Martin Luther once said. "But when he leaves the subject and discourses on rules and works, it is no longer St. Bernard".

Nowhere is Bernard's simple faith in the blood of Christ more poignantly expressed than in his "Sacred Head Now Wounded", which still lives today as the greatest Good Friday hymn of the Church.

From a wild and barren gorge at Clairvaux, near Langres, today on the modern Basle-Paris highway, where in 1115 Bernard founded his famous monastery, his influence extended over the whole of the Europe of his day. Statesmen and kings, priests and pope, people of all classes wrote letters seeking his advice. More than four hundred of these letters still exist. He fought with vigour against the rationalism of Abelard; he brought warring popes together and, where armies failed, he succeeded in settling the papal schism.

Perhaps the most dramatic event of his life was his preaching of the Second Crusade in 1146. He roused the people to such a pitch that it seemed that all France and Germany would rise as one man to take up the crusader's cross. Its complete failure was a tragic disappointment to Bernard. He died in 1153.



"Ippo sariyay irrukkiratha?" called the carpenter this evening as he watched me approach the workshop.

Just over a week ago he had ridden with me in the jeep to Nagercoil. There we visited a timber merchant. The timber merchants all live together in one street as do the pot-makers, the smiths, the laundrymen and every other caste.

We haggled for a long time over the price of each piece of wood. The merchant maintained we were breaking him and we told him he was robbing us. At last the teak was bought and the bill paid - to everyone's satisfaction. We use only teak or rose-wood for furniture as the insects eat up every other variety.

Then I supervised the job. Daily I went across to the workshop to check that each detail of my plan was being carried out. Finally, the second bench was ready. Hence the opening question: "Is it all right this time?" The bench was well made and we carried it over to the hostel.

### A NEW FACE FOR THE LUTHERAN HOSTEL

I wish you in England could have seen the sparkling black eyes of the hostel girls when they came in at the start of the new school year in June and saw their home: spotless in a new coat of whitewash, equipped with a verandah light for which they had pleaded so long, having a table and now a second bench so they can sit up in comparative comfort to do their homework instead of squirming over the floor.

To all those Lutherans in Great Britain whose generous donations during my recent visit made the new coat of paint, the verandah light, the table and the two benches possible, my Indian girls join me in saying a heartfelt "Thank You".

Nora Mitchell

# DOCTRINE AND MINISTRY



"What subjects should a young man study who is training for the ministry?"

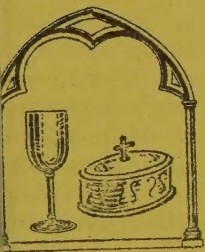
This was one of the questions discussed at a conference of theological professors held at Cambridge recently. What makes up the bulk in most programmes are the Biblical languages and Church History.

At the conference the need was expressed for more emphasis on doctrine. Dr. John Baillie of Edinburgh recounted how men who wished to transfer into the Anglican Church were told: "The first thing you men must understand is that the Church of England is not interested in theology". However, this alone does not explain the minor place given at present to doctrine. In a public university doctrine must be uncontroversial and this can so easily mean the lowest common denominator.

Among Lutherans the study of doctrine, doctrine being simply the teachings of Christ as revealed in the Scriptures, is given a major place in the minister's training. How will this fit into the scheme of things at Cambridge? Very well. The study of language and history the University will provide; doctrinal theology, so important to us, our own Lutheran instructor will provide.

Men who do the university divinity course usually go on to a theological college, a denominational institution, for a year where they receive special training as pastors and preachers. This division is not ideal. If our plans succeed, we shall have our young men together for the whole training at our own institution in Cambridge and thus be able to train them as theologians and pastors at the same time. This will overcome the gap between academic theology and practical parish work and will give us men who are good pastors and yet sound theologians.

# That's My Church



Last month we tracked down that statement until we found solid ground. Where the Word and Sacraments are in action, there is God, there are believing people, there is the church.

Let us look at "my". It is first of all, not true. The church does not belong to me; I belong to the church. So we cannot mean ownership when we talk of "my" church. It is there without us; but without it we are lost.

Yet there is a way in which we can rightly speak of "my" church. This is when we indicate a particular church and want to say: what that church stands for is what I stand for.

This is a necessary statement because, sadly, there are many churches which more or less stand for many different things. If the Gospel is precious to us, we cannot bear to have it blurred or denied. It must ring out clear and true. If the Word and Sacraments are muffled or diminished, so is the church. Where Word and Sacraments have full sway, in that gathering of Christians where these ring out clear and pure, there I would belong, and that is what I may gladly call "my" church.

Unqualified loyalty to my Lord and Saviour who deals with me through Word and Sacraments works sideways too. I will proclaim this Gospel to my fellow-man. This proclamation, too must be strong and clear. Therefore, I identify myself with that church whose declarations give Christ His full honour in undiminished loyalty to His Word and Sacraments. Happy are they who clearly declare this by saying: "That's my church".



**CARDIFF** First meeting of Youth Club brings 15 youth and 3 adults on June 18... week-day activity of any kind hitherto impossible since Fairwater Institute available Sunday evenings only ... adult instruction class meets weekly in homes of members ... newest model electric duplicator donated by home congregation of Pastor Brammeier at Hoyleton, Illinois ... preparations to house ELCE pastors in July for Barnes Conference and, incidentally, for a peek into the Commonwealth Games.

**BOREHAM WOOD** Whitmonday Outing of North Londoners washed out ... 50-60 who braved the incessant rain were rewarded with entertainment in the Church Hall and with 4 P.M. tea ... church attendance dropped to 35 on June 15 but otherwise average of 73 since May.

**TOTTENHAM** Brighton family now residing at 6330 Southwood, St. Louis 5, Mo., U.S.A., a church house for pastors on furlough ... pastor and his wife awaiting results of medical examination at Lutheran clinic ... at South Tottenham, in spite of the pastor's absence and the bus strike, attendance at divine service, Sunday School, and Bible Class keeps up due to the loyalty of all members to the Word of God and to the consecrated leadership of Mr. A.M. Kahl, President ... Mission Festival, June 22nd, will have Luther-Tyndale's Pastor Heintz and Australian Pastor C. D. Nagel, father of our Norman Nagel, as guest speakers.

**RUISLIP** More people than chairs for Confirmation Service on June 8 when Mr. and Mrs. L. Swann, Miss Christine Taylor and teen-ager Keith Jacklin were received into communicant membership ... large group from St. Andrews made the 32-mile trip across London to Petts Wood for the first Confirmation service there on May 25th ... Pastor and Mrs. Rakow on a three-week coach tour of Austria, Italy and Germany.

**UNDERLAND** Four men to be confirmed on July 6, three of them introduced by "Luther" ilm ... joint outing with Grindon to historic ork planned for July 5 ... Bible Class drawing aps in their study of missionary journeys of St. aul ... Concordia Choir of Springfield, whose 1954 isit "discovered" Sunderland for the Lutheran hurch, holds successful concert at Seaburn Hall... ecent visitors include Mr. and Mrs. C. Lawton. Mr. ean of London and the Brammeier family of Cardiff.

**RINDON** First Grindon Confirmation on Whit-sunday of three teen-agers will be ollowed by that of two adults on July 6 ... 32 dults enjoy June 7 social in which tape-recorder rovided entertainment ... Pastor Jose finalizing urveys of Bradford, Manchester and Liverpool be- ore his three-month leave to America.

**ETTS WOOD** Whitsunday Confirmation of nine adults attended by 80+ worshippers ... don- tion by "a former Bromley Sunday School teacher" rom New York of solid silver-gilt Communion set ade by a leading London silversmith in the days hen America was still a British colony ... due to CE exams and summer holidays, youth confirmation ostponed ... SS attendance increases at last.

**ENTISH TOWN** 70 London Youth Rally on May 11 for morning worship, four-course lunch, lide lecture by Miss Nora Mitchell, and closing espers conducted by the youth ... next youth out- ng planned for Kew Gardens June 28 ... four boys swatting" for their expected Confirmation July 27.

**AMBRIDGE** Monthly Communion services conducted by Pastor Nagel at USAF. base much ppreciated by 35 American Lutheran servicemen who ttend ... efforts being made to find suitable hurch building in Cambridge ... recently arrived rom Australia, Pastor Nagel Sr. will accompany his on on the 3-week Springfield Chorus Tour of Britain.

# Your Missions Around the World

MARVIN BRAMMEIER

MISSIONS CORRESPONDENT

## 268 Baptized in New Guinea

"February 16 was truly a big day for Irelya", Dr. O. H. Schmidt, Foreign Missions Secretary, reports. "Favoured by very fine weather, they had a great baptismal service here with 268 receiving Baptism. Early the candidates for Baptism gathered, all decked out in new lap-laps or mother hubbards, and in utter seriousness and with much chanting they made their procession to the grounds, just beyond the church. They still have those tall crosses that were featured in their first such service. A loudspeaker enabled all to hear". The Mission of our American sister church is studying the possibility of expansion into Dutch New Guinea.

## Forward in Formosa

Begun in 1951, our mission in Formosa shows gratifying growth. Stations: 14 in 1956, 17 in 1957; baptized members: 911 in 1956, 1204 in 1957. The Board for Missions to the Blind plans to make religious materials available in Eraille in Formosa. Seven candidates for the ministry will be graduated in the 1959 class of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Chia Yi on the West coast of Formosa.

## First Conference of Korea Lutheran Mission

War-ravaged Korea, where our Church's newest mission was begun less than a year ago, had its first Conference of Lutheran missionaries on March 26th in Seoul. The Korean field received the foreign mission offerings of most ELCE congregations last year.

LATE NEWS: THE REV. LOUIS BRIGHTON, ON FURLOUGH IN AMERICA, HAS TENDERED HIS RESIGNATION AS PASTOR OF HOLY TRINITY, LONDON, ON MEDICAL ADVICE.

1600 ACCLAIMED CONCORDIA CHOIR AT DUBLIN CONCERT.



## FIFTH ELCE CONGREGATION ORGANIZED

The first Lutheran congregation south of the River Thames and the fifth in the ELCE came into being on Friday, June 20, at a meeting held at the Lutheran parsonage, Petts Wood.

As yet unnamed, the congregation was organized with five voters and fourteen communicants with the likelihood of another ten being added in the near future. After adopting the model ELCE constitution, the first Church Council was elected: Ernest Barker, President; Sidney Watkins, Vice-President; Samuel Bamford, Treasurer; Leonard Nelson, Secretary.

Lutheran work in the Petts Wood area began with a film series in October, 1956. The nine adults who form the nucleus of the new church were confirmed on Whitsunday after fifteen months' weekly Bible instruction. The new congregation called the Rev. John Sims as their first pastor.

## ONE ACCEPTED, ONE DECLINED

Mr. Roger Winger of Fisherville, Ontario, Canada, has accepted the call into the ELCE ministry, and will arrive by the Queen Elizabeth at Southampton in mid-August. Mr. Winger is a 1958 graduate of Concordia Theological Seminary, St. Louis. Another Canadian, Mr. Gene Krentz of Windsor, Ontario, declined the second call. Physicians strongly advised him to take this course because of his wife's sinus condition.

## NEW YOUTH MAGAZINE

A sixteen-page youth magazine under the editorship of Youth Board Chairman, John Sims, has recently appeared. The British Lutheran wishes it success.

## MEMORIAL WREATHS

In loving memory of Mr. C. W. Buckley of Luther-  
Lyndale, who died on May 7th at the age of 78, from  
Mr. L. Launer Sr. and Family £4; Mr. S. Bamford £1;  
Mr. and Mrs. C. Fry £5; Anonymous £1; Pastor and  
Mrs. N. Heintz £1; Pastor and Mrs. E. Geo. Pearce  
£3, total £15 for the Church Extension Fund.

A four-storied freehold office building with full basement has been purchased at a cost of £13,500 by the ELCE Executive Council. Located in Museum Street which connects New Oxford Street with the British Museum, the new headquarters are in Bloomsbury, a centre of the London book trade and a few minutes' walk from either Tottenham Court Road or Holborn Station. The excellent ground-floor shop premises will be used for film and book display while the upper floors will provide the additional space so long and urgently required for the fast-expanding Lutheran Agencies and for church offices.



This important step in ELCE development was made possible by a generous loan of £12,000 from the Lutheran Laymen's League of Australia. The £1,500 balance plus redecoration costs must be raised locally. Your gift or loan will be appreciated.

#### LUTHERAN HOUR SPEAKER AT LUTHER-TYNDALE

Even with chairs in the aisles, London's Lutheran Tyndale Church could not seat all the worshippers on Lutheran Hour Sunday, June 15. The preacher was Dr. Oswald Hoffmann, internationally-famed radio speaker, now heading a 16-city tour of Britain by the Concordia Chorus of Springfield, Illinois. The Chorus, under the direction of Prof. Fred Precht, ended the service with the familiar Lutheran Hour rendition of "Beautiful Saviour". The offering of more than £70 was donated to the radio mission.

£12000

£10000

£ 8000

£ 6000

£ 4000

£ 2000

# CHURCH EXTENSION FUND

## LOANS AND DONATIONS

(Receipts to 31st of May)

	<u>Loans</u>	<u>Donations</u>
KENTISH TOWN	£183	£ 16
TOTTENHAM	13	2
RUISLIP	74	1
SUNDERLAND	18	0
BROMLEY	16	0
BOREHAM WOOD	0	0
PETTS WOOD	71	53
OTHERS	0	<u>251</u>
Totals	£375	£323
Grand Total		£698

## APPLICATION FOR CHURCH SITE IN HARLOW NEW TOWN

At its meeting on May 21, the Executive Council applied for a one-acre church site in Harlow, a satellite town under development some 20 miles NE of London. If granted, ELCE work could begin in 1959 or 1960.

At the same meeting, the Council accepted Cardiff Corporation's conditions of sale of  $\frac{1}{2}$ -acre site in Fairwater: £260 with option until October 1961. A preliminary offer was made for a third property at the main crossroads of Hounslow, a West London suburb. Acquisition of this property with its existing hall and house would make possible a 1958 Autumn opening.

## NEW GUINEA CHOSEN AS 1958 FIELD

The New Guinea Mission of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Australia was named as the ELCE Foreign Mission field for 1958. Pastor C. D. Nagel of Australia whose son is a missionary in New Guinea, will speak on behalf of the field at mission festivals at Tottenham, Ruislip and Sunderland.



# SMOKED FOR TREE BURIAL

Seven years ago the Australian government allowed white men for the first time to enter a new territory in the central highlands of New Guinea. The primitive and savage natives who inhabit this area, a green valley 4,000 feet above sea level, are called Kuku-kukus. They are cannibals. Of the few missionaries who in bygone years had sought to go among them with the Gospel, many never returned.

When a loved one dies, the Kuku-kukus smoke the body and 'bury' it by hanging it up high in a tree. Down below the mourners assemble and wail - a fearful, harrowing, animal sound - for hours.

Superstition and fear bedevil their lives.

Your 1958 Mission Festival Offerings will go to the Kuku-kukus. In 1951 when the territory was opened, the Australian government allowed only one church to enter - our Australian Lutheran Church. Four brave young missionaries are today preaching the Gospel for us - with safety and success. 200 are under instruction and will soon be baptized.

What a field for the Gospel! What an opportunity for us!

PRAY FERVENTLY AND GIVE GENEROUSLY FOR THE KUKU - KUKUS AT YOUR CHURCH'S 1958 MISSION FESTIVAL.

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